



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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Malcolm X Branch Library Screens *The New Black* in Honor of Juneteenth
Film examines contentious issue of gay marriage and rights in African America

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library, in partnership with the San Diego City Black Employees Association, will host a free Community Cinema and Juneteenth preview screening of *The New Black* by filmmaker Yoruba Richen on Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library in the Multipurpose Room, located at 5148 Market Street at the corner of Market Street and Euclid Ave. Independent scholar, Dr. Pat Washington, PhD of Project Ujima will facilitate a Q&A discussion after the film. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US. Refreshments will be served.

Directed by filmmaker Yoruba Richen, *The New Black* is a documentary that tells the story of how the African-American community is grappling with the gay rights issue in light of the recent gay marriage movement and the fight over civil rights. The film explores the role of the black community's institutional pillar—the black church, and documents activists, families and clergy on both sides of the campaign. *The New Black* takes viewers into the pews and onto the streets and provides a seat at the kitchen table as it tells the story of the historic fight to win marriage equality and charts the evolution of this divisive issue within the black community.

The San Diego City Black Employees Association (BEA), established in 1980, is the oldest informal organization recognized by the City of San Diego. BEA provides City employees of African descent an organization to enhance their professional, cultural and social awareness, continuing a longstanding tradition in Black culture of building and supporting strong communities for the growth and betterment of the whole.

Dr. Washington is a trained sociologist and former professor of Women's Studies at San Diego State University. A well-known community organizer in the area, Dr. Washington has held a number of leadership positions that promote full inclusion and equity for all. Currently, she is engaged in advocacy endeavors that enhance parent engagement in education and promote equity and access for under-served populations in San Diego and California redistricting and efforts to insure that all SDUSD students will graduate career and college-ready.

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Community Cinema (<http://communitycinema.org>) is affiliated with the ITVS media organization (Independent Television Service). ITVS Community Cinema is a monthly screening series that pairs independently produced documentary films with leading organizations working to resolve related social issues in communities across the country. All films featured will broadcast nationally on the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens.

About Juneteenth: From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond. Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing, self-improvement and for planning the future. Visit the Wikipedia entry on Juneteenth at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth>.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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